

Fill empty places with mature students, universities urged

by Sue Reid

The chairman of the TUC education committee has called on universities to fill empty places by recruiting more mature students.

Speaking at the annual conference of university convocations at Bradford University last weekend, Mrs. Marie Patterson said that mature students had a good record of academic success even if they entered university without formal qualifications.

Since 1947, 739 mature students had entered university without formal qualifications and of the 502 who had completed their courses so far 506 had graduated with honours and 52 with first class honours. This, said Mrs. Patterson, suggested that universities should look again at the entry qualifications regarding mature students.

She told the conference, which was discussing the role of the university in modern society, that more universities should examine the possibility of introducing part-time undergraduate courses as Kent University was now proposing.

The TUC wanted to see more working people within the university fold. There had been very little increase in the number of working class children entering university in the last 40 years. In the manual workers' category, only 1930/25 per cent of the children of manual workers entered university and today the figure had only risen to 28 per cent.

Commenting on trade union education Mrs. Patterson, former chairman of the TUC said that the TUC welcomed a close relationship with university education departments although these were considered the poor relation of universities in many cases.

She said that secondary schools were so divorced from the realities of industry and commerce that they inculcated into able pupils the feeling that they should turn only towards the ivory towers of universities.

She concluded that it was useless trying to introduce manpower planning into universities unless there was some indication that they were going to respond to these resources.



Mrs. Marie Patterson: "Good record for mature students"

There was going to be some rationalization and reorganization within higher education. Universities were going to have a place in modern society.

Professor J. C. Wood of Sheffield University said that the enormous expansion in further education since post-war years and the subsequent economic decline had led to a concentration upon resource problems in universities.

The colleges of advanced technology had become universities and degree-awarding bodies through the Council for National Academic Awards. The colleges of higher education and colleges of technology were also expanding fast as degree-awarding institutions.

One considered all the degree-awarding institutions in the further education sector then the explosion of higher education in the further education sector. He added that although it had been said that the different fields of higher education should specialize in different things, no one quite knew who was doing what.

Advocating that universities should be maintained as centres of elitism, Professor Wood said that

the polytechnics wanted to be like the university sector and it was going to take an enormous amount of direction to keep the two apart. The single disciplinary core of a university was an essential part of these institutions. They were not fertile ground for multidisciplinary teaching, apart from exceptional cases, although the polytechnics were. But he added that recently the polytechnics had tried to move away from interdisciplinary teaching towards single-disciplinary courses and teaching.

Professor Wood added that the original ivory tower concept of universities had spread throughout the whole of the higher-education sector. The polytechnics were concerned with society and the universities were not.

Mr. David Hills, an industrialist, told the conference that education graduates should be expected to take an interest in public affairs, local government, trade union activities and a range of other subjects even if they had specialized in one academic field at university.

He expressed concern at the falling number of graduates in mathematics and physics. The wealth of the country came from industry and without that wealth there would be a lack of resources for anything, including higher education.

The conference discussed the levels of specialization needed in degree courses in the future after Mr. John Parsons, an employment consultant and member of the Birmingham University convocation, had advocated that universities should graduate too many "super-specialists".

This, he said, was a grave mistake. Graduates were being used for very overspecialized jobs because they were.

He added that "super-specialist" first degree should be postgraduate level, only while first degree students should be trained on the broadest possible level.

'Secret police kept watch on deportees'

by Sue Reid

A secret police network was in operation on the University of Zambia campus before its closure in February, according to the three lecturers deported from Zambia last week.

The trio, who included Dr. Lionel Cliffe, a British political scientist, and Mr. Robert Molteno, a leading South African academic, said on arrival in London that there was obviously some police activity at the university, although the extent was not known.

The lecturers, who were detained in Zambia for more than six weeks after a renewal of the country's state of emergency, were accused of being the "paid agents of foreign powers" and instrumental in student demonstrations in favour of the MPLA in Angola. They deny this. During their detention no official charges were brought.

But the lecturers now claim that before their arrest their activities both on and off the campus were probably monitored by police informers.

Mr. Robert Molteno, who is being allowed to stay in Britain for the next year, said that during his detention he was closely interrogated about a talk he had given in the Historical Association of Zambia in 1974. A student from Africa in previously suspected of being an informant, was one of his interrogators.

Dr. Cliffe said at a press conference: "Our detention following the declaration of the state of emergency was not just as a result of the underlying economic difficulties in Zambia and the present crisis situation. We were used as scapegoats and linked with the students' part of some kind of foreign plot although we were not directly involved in students' activities."

Dr. Cliffe, a reader in political studies at the university since 1974, and Mr. Molteno, a lecturer in politics and an authority on southern Africa, are deeply concerned about the future autonomy of the university.

They spoke of internal unrest over a course rationalization within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which had led to a rift between Professor Eyo Ndem, dean of the school, and the expatriate academics. After the arrest of Dr. Cliffe, the first lecturer to be detained, the students at the university called for a general strike in protest and called for the dismissal of Professor Ndem, who they claimed was using the "dirty instrument of colour" to further his evil career.

The university's senior staff including Zambians, also condemned Dr. Cliffe's arrest, which they said imperilled the academic freedom of the university and carried grave implications for maintaining standards of excellence.

The University of Zambia, first opened in 1966, was renowned for its autonomy and academic freedom. But now there are fears of increased Government interference when it reopens.

Mr. Molteno told the THES: "The closing of the university was a 'utter folly'. The buoyant confidence of the 1960s had given way to the pessimism of the 1970s. We hope we can restore the confidence of the 1960s."

Mr. Molteno described the closing of the university as a "disaster". He said that the university was a "disaster" and that the university was a "disaster".

Mr. Molteno, who was interrogated for 27 hours, said he was not physically assaulted, but he was threatened. The other lecturers were not physically abused either.

Fifteen students and a Zambian student development officer from the university were still in detention, and the university is not expected to open again until the release of the lecturers, who include Mr. George Slamsana, a Dutch academic, and a fourth academic, Mr. David Zoght, freed last month.

Now plans for a postgraduate international fund for their release and a defence fund has already been set up.

News in brief

Criminology centre opens at Sheffield

Sheffield University's new centre for criminological studies opened last week by Sir A. E. B. Ridd, Lord Justice of Appeal, who is the first British university to have a criminology centre at the Institute of Criminology and the Department of Criminology at Edinburgh.

Major research projects include the study of the criminal justice system, juvenile justice, and social policy, and measuring the effectiveness of crime.

Computer changeover

The Open University's data processing division has just completed conversion of its 1200 computer program from a Univac 1100 to a Univac 1100.

Data processing at the university is the basis for the administration of its 60,000 students. The division includes maintenance, student records, computer marking, payments, summer school fees, examinations, and students to courses and living systems.

Kent physics course

Kent University's physics department, in conjunction with the Church College, is to offer a three-year MSc and diploma course in physics and physics with electronics from October, 1976.

The courses are aimed at people who want to update their knowledge and acquire new qualifications, such as science backgrounds (industry), schools or working in industry, teaching will be in the evening and the work can be spread over two, three, or even four years.

Right note

The University of East Anglia centre has been given a grant for its electronic music unit. Willis, Faber and Dumas Ltd. an international insurance company, has agreed to fund the unit.

The unit will control an automatic 216, will control an electronic music synthesizer of the type used by the BBC radio, and will be used to produce electronic music for the Dr. Who series.

OU diploma course

The Open University has been given £25,000 by the Department of Education and Science for its Open University Diploma course in Reading Development. The diploma course is a one-year, full-time course, and students are able to complete it in two years.

TEC reconstituted

Mr. Mulley, the Education Secretary, has reconstituted the Technical Education Council (TEC), which was first set up in 1974. It has appointed Mr. J. Raine, a governor of Lancaster Polytechnic, as the new part-time chairman for a three-year period from April 1, 1976, in succession to Mr. A. L. Burton.

Skin research success

Researchers at Dundee University have developed new techniques for skin grafting which overcome problems of rejection by the body. The results raise the possibility of creating "skin banks" for use in patients who have suffered extensive damage, for example, from severe burning.

Business studies course

Newcastle Polytechnic and Carlisle Technical College are to launch the country's first full-time diploma course in business studies. The two-year course, which will be the only full-time diploma course in business studies offered in the north, will be run by Carlisle.

Dainton warning over university expansion

by David Walker

Universities should beware of dealing themselves a "self-inflicted wound" by pressing ahead too fast with the expansion of student numbers, Sir Frederick Dainton, chairman of the University Grants Committee, warned a conference at Heriot-Watt University last week.

He told members of the University Teachers' Group, who were discussing the lessons to be taken from the expansion of higher education, that in retrospect the new universities had been created too rapidly. There should perhaps have been three years' gap between each new foundation. He urged that to maintain "vitality of ideas", the UGC should keep a reserve fund to promote educational innovation.

"We can only maintain vitality by ensuring a steady flow of bright young people into academic posts—but the Association of University Teachers with its policies on promotion does not seem to want this. There is no logical way of keeping a constant promotion rate," he added.

Describing one of the rules of the UGC as a mechanism for controlling—preventing the birth of unnecessary departments for which there was no student demand—Sir Frederick refused to accept the view that the future of either the universities or the UGC was gloomy.

"There are always threats," he said. "One sees this in the statements of ministers, some of whom think they can just issue directives about what is done in the universities, but their opinions have been known to change over time, often after consultations with the UGC."

"The power of government to effect change in all sectors of its spending is limited partly because there is such much fixed plant. Any change in the mechanism of the university works too well for there to be a chance of switching resources massively into a new sector of higher education."

Questioned about staff student ratios, Sir Frederick said that very few in his career had a very high number of student contact hours that had been one of the most productive periods of his life. What was needed was determination and effort.

Answering a question posed by Mr. Brian MacArthur, editor of The Times Higher Education Supplement, on the future relations of the universities and the further education sector, Miss Marjorie Reeves, of St. Anne's College, Oxford, declared that she should "muck in" with the system as a whole.

Dr. Reeves emphasized that university teachers had to make an effort to recover public confidence in the universities: they had to explain higher education to the public and to show the public the value of higher education. Universities were about as curious, investigative enthusiasm, and personal enjoyment on the part of both student and teacher that enriched the whole life of the community.

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Mr. Benn, Energy Secretary, is understood to have told students and academics on a recent visit to Scotland that he favoured some form of national educational commission under the Scottish Assembly. Any change in the Government's position is laid down in the White Paper has been denied by Lord Crowsfoot, Minister in Mr. Short's devolution unit.

But there is mounting pressure on the Government to change its mind. The annual conference of the Scottish Council of University Principals last week approved a motion which stated that the universities must come under the control of the assembly.

Lord Crowsfoot-Hunt is currently sounding university opinion on this question. After a recent visit to St. Andrews University he will go on to Glasgow and Edinburgh. He will be followed by the Scottish university principals have declared in favour of the White Paper, many university teachers are having second thoughts.

Although a recent poll by the Association of University Teachers in Scotland showed a majority in favour of some academics feel the special relationship of the Scottish universities and the secondary schools could be threatened by a new arrangement between the Scottish Council of University Principals and the Scottish Government.



NUS officers: Charles Clarke (president), Sue Slipman (secretary), and Trevor Phillips (arcs vice-president).

NUS picks new officers as Clarke warns Government of graduate unemployment

by David Hencke

More than one newly graduated student in every seven faces the prospect of unemployment this summer. Mr. Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said in his opening address to the union's conference at Llandudno this week.

He warned that the Government's policies of restraint were creating higher unemployment, making it more difficult for existing students to live on inadequate grants and restricting the opportunities for teenagers to enter higher education.

He said that the "bulge" in the secondary school population—it rises from 780,000 to 810,000 this year—and the cutbacks in opportunities for newly-qualified teachers were the main reasons why unemployment was rising.

"For the current school leaver the opportunities for further and higher education were becoming relatively less. Large numbers will end up swelling the ranks of the unemployed. For the 16 or 18-year-old leaving school, the fact that this crisis is just temporary as the Government claims, does not help them. Their whole job and career opportunities have been blighted."

"The vicious reality of unemployment, which now stands at over 1.25 million, must concentrate our minds if we are adequately to represent our members' interests. I am glad to say that the cynical despatch of young people's futures, which the current Government's policies represent, is not being accepted lying down. Throughout the country an angry response is growing as the facts of the situation are made known."

Mr. Clarke believed that the Government's whole economic strategy was fundamentally mistaken. He said that the latest White Paper on public expenditure meant that our rent expenditure per student would decline by 3.1 per cent in 1978/79. "The Labour Government has so far meekly accepted the economic priorities of big business. It has accepted the strident demands

for higher unemployment, for massive public expenditure cuts, and for lower living standards in every section of the community, except the large corporations blessed by Denis Healey's generous tax hand-outs in the budget a year ago."

The NUS must fight to change society and change in economic policy of the Government. "It is not a question of what slogan we desire to put forward or what principle we can wear on our sleeve, the question at stake is whether we can alter the course of our society."

He condemned the Labour Government for making cynicism a political watchword and becoming the government of the Establishment.

"Like Solomon, they have sat on the fence and made appeasing judgments between competing claims. Resistance to change, and a gripped acceptance of the evils of the world, have become the hallmark of the Labour Party in government."

"It is our job to break down what cynicism there exists among the student body and to overcome the rejection of political life, of whatever form, that many of them feel."

The ruling Broad Left coalition of Communist, Labour Party members and non-party socialists swept back into power in the elections for the executive of the National Union of Students this week, with a little help from their traditional enemies, the Conservatives.

Broad Left candidates secured the top four executive posts, each carrying a salary of £3,200, for the first time in four years, ousting Mr. Hugh Lanning, the Independent Socialist, as treasurer.

Mr. Charles Clarke, a 25-year-old Cambridge University graduate, was elected president after a tough battle with Mr. Lanning, of Birmingham Polytechnic. At one stage in the election by single transferable votes, only 26 votes separated the two candidates but the 127 votes of Mr. Mark Haggood, the

Conservative, were divided and 86 went to Mr. Clarke giving him a majority of 81.

Mr. Peter Ashby, a 23-year-old Warwick University graduate, became deputy president. He received 445 votes, beating his nearest rival Mr. Tim Whitfield, of the International Socialists, who polled 178. Mr. Lanning was defeated by 14 votes for the treasurer's post by Mr. Chris Morgan, a 23-year-old St. Andrews University theology graduate. Ms. Sue Slipman, a 26-year-old postgraduate teacher, was re-elected national secretary, when she beat Ms. Valerie Couttas, of the International Marxist Group, by 15 votes to 298.

The Conservative candidate, Mr. Steve Moon, received 167 votes, but was again divided mainly in favour of Ms. Slipman, a Communist Party member.

Mr. Clarke said afterwards that the elections had shown the Conservatives were not such a strong force and that the impetus for the revolutionary left groups such as the IS and IMG was waning, and would continue to do so while their policies were unrealistic.

Mr. Mark Haggood, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said that the results confirmed their best predictions and that Mr. Clarke would not now be president without their support. His prediction that Conservatives would prefer to vote for Tribune members of the Labour Party and Communist rather than Broad Left candidates, was confirmed in the elections.

The final result was: 24 Broad Left, two International Socialists and one Conservative. All four vice-presidents are members of the Broad Left. They are David Aaronovitch (services), Penny Cooper (educational), Trevor Phillips (arcs), and (see page 2) Mr. Lanning.

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DES lobby call over higher overseas student fees

by David Hencke

An appeal to all organisations concerned with overseas students to lobby the Department of Education and Science, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Overseas Development before the Government decides to put up student fees was made by Mr. Rupert Brindley, secretary of the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students, last week.

He told a joint meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth in London that there was still time for organisations to make their views known. Overseas and home student fees have already been increased by 30

per cent from next September, but students are under consideration.

Mr. Anthony Kershaw, MP, parliamentary chairman of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, said he hoped that the Government would delay its plans for further fee increases for overseas students until the vice-chancellors had considered the proposals.

The meeting was also addressed by Dr. John Dabney, of the mathematics department of the South Bank Polytechnic, and Mr. Trevor Phillips, president of London University Students' Union, who is the NUS executive member responsible for overseas students. Both speakers criticized Britain's attitudes towards overseas students.

Tribune MP attacks cuts

by John Ross

In a strong attack on the recent public expenditure White Paper, Mr. Anthony Kershaw, MP, for Harlow, said he hoped that the Government would delay its plans for further fee increases for overseas students until the vice-chancellors had considered the proposals.

Speaking in London on Saturday at an education conference organized by the TUC South-East Region, Mr. Kershaw said: "The continued pressure for education cuts is being maintained by some authorities with a rather paralysed by those who call for more spending on defence and aid to independent public schools in the same breath as they call for cuts in public expenditure."

Calling for an alternative economic strategy, he said: "It is really such a great pity that we should make it illegal to use the Imperial Standard of weights and measures, and spend money changing all our signposting from miles to kilometres, while ignoring the education spending."

Mr. Kershaw described the closing of "teacher-training colleges as a 'utter folly'. The buoyant confidence of the 1960s had given way to the pessimism of the 1970s. We hope we can restore the confidence of the 1960s."

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Student proportion will fall

assumption that the school-leaving age will not be raised, and that there will be no marked shift in pupils' desire to go on to universities and colleges.

Mr. Davis predicts that during the next 25 years there will be several significant changes in our population structure. The balance between people who work and those who are dependent, both the old and the young, is likely to improve. The number of live births per total population is also likely to increase and the 1990s—a movement which would have great impact on the educational system five or 10 years later.

Britain's changing age structure, Mr. Davis says, will have a profound effect on the educational system.

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Manuscripts gift

The original manuscript of David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens, has been given to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, by the Bodleian Library.

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Finding the right note for music history studies

by Robin Macdonald

The chronological approach to music history could be exaggerated, delegates to the fourth University Music Teachers' Conference at Lancaster University were told last week. Too strong an emphasis on history created an undesirable pressure to cover everything, which led to concentration on a few key figures by design rather than by default, and take proper account of the wider social and musical context of selected figures.

In a discussion on the historical approach to music courses, some delegates felt that the history-based courses were not wrong in principle, but it was impossible to cover the subject adequately in three years, and there was a tendency for chronological sequence to impose rigidity on study which was difficult to justify as well as not appealing to students.

On the course structure itself, some universities favoured breadth of coverage, leaving it to the student to choose a specialist area. Others preferred to study selected works intensively and expected the student to derive a broader historical perspective from his own reading.

Dr. Reeves emphasized that university teachers had to make an effort to recover public confidence in the universities: they had to explain higher education to the public and to show the public the value of higher education. Universities were about as curious, investigative enthusiasm, and personal enjoyment on the part of both student and teacher that enriched the whole life of the community.

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But there is mounting pressure on the Government to change its mind. The annual conference of the Scottish Council of University Principals last week approved a motion which stated that the universities must come under the control of the assembly.

Lord Crowsfoot-Hunt is currently sounding university opinion on this question. After a recent visit to St. Andrews University he will go on to Glasgow and Edinburgh. He will be followed by the Scottish university principals have declared in favour of the White Paper, many university teachers are having second thoughts.

Job forecasts 'dubious'

Most forecasts of qualified manpower were "highly dubious", Mr. Bryan Davies, Labour MP for Enfield North, said this week during the House of Commons Expenditure Committee—investigating decision-making within the Department of Education and Science.

Mr. C. A. Lister, under-secretary in charge of the Department of Employment's manpower division, gave evidence that there had been no great success in forecasting jobs despite large-scale expenditure on research and surveys. But he added: "We can't just wing our hands and say we don't know at all."

He said most forecasting was done by the Unit for Manpower Studies, which although based in the Department of Employment, was given its programme by a committee including representatives of the DES.

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Should egalitarianism go to university?

Too many academics have been in different to what happens in schools with grave consequences for the universities' future. Lord James, former vice-chancellor of York University, told the House of Lords last week.

He said that egalitarian changes imposed on the schools were affecting the standard of those entering higher education. Universities were unashamedly concerned with the minority.

"As their best they are places where teachers and taught discuss and evaluate very difficult and sometimes original ideas. The majority of people cannot deal with such ideas, much though we may wish it were otherwise," Lord James added.

The theme, during the Lords' first full-scale debate on universities for over a decade, was taken up by Lord Eccles, chairman of the Conservative Committee for Education in the 1950s, who warned that educational standards in such forms were declining. He blamed self-interest of educationists for forming O and A levels easier.

"At least the universities admit

In its first full-scale debate on universities for over a decade the House of Lords examines the current problems facing higher education. David Walker reports

the administrative Civil Service at the top of the scale. Today, the average professorial salary is £8,500, while the assistant secretary's salary has risen to £11,000.

Not all the Lords agreed with this pessimism. On behalf of the Government, Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Under-Secretary for Northern Ireland, said the figures showed that the proportion of national expenditure devoted to education in general and to the universities in particular was not stingy.

He admitted that the universities had to bear severe economies and slowed up. Nevertheless the latest settlement was fair. Education was still second in the public expenditure league table, and even by 1979-1980, the tightest year according to the expenditure White Paper, resources for education in real terms would be up by nearly 20 per cent on 1970-1.

Lord Robbins, Chancellor of Stirling and chairman of the Committee on Higher Education 1961-4, "cry wolf". "I should like to say that any talk of catastrophe and disaster, any talk of what is likely to happen must sweep away all standards in learning and research is an unwelcome exaggeration. I do not think we in the universities do ourselves any good by using such language frequently."

"I am clear that a worsening of the staff-student ratio will in the long period as well as in the short. But there are many parts of the western world where staff-student ratios are far worse than they are likely to become here, and the advancement of learning still goes on."

Lord James suggested that three major reforms were needed.

First, the universities had to avoid diffusion of effort and admit that not every university should teach everything. "This is accepted since, as regards some subjects like medicine, small and uneconomic departments, and both in the interests of economy and of staff morale, and in the interests of the student, a greater self-discipline, I believe, must be shown by the universities in allowing this proliferation."

Second, the universities had to examine their attitude towards research. The idea that every university teacher was expected to spend about one third of his time on research had been applied too mechanically and unrealistically.

"We have to face the fact in truth that not every department in every university can or should be expected to produce valuable, still less fundamental, knowledge; and the triviality of much knowledge has been published has tended to devalue the whole concept of research as an activity valuable in itself and on which the universities are uniquely qualified to undertake."

Thirdly, the idea that all academics should take part in university administration could be reviewed.

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evolution and pursuit of a consistent and developing academic policy and, in any case, it wastes a lot of time and a great deal more paper."

The same point was made by other speakers. The universities should be kept as nuclei, Lord Eversley, professor of geology at Nottingham University, suggested, and not allowed to "exaggerate their activities". At the same time the polytechnics and other institutions of advanced education should be expanded to cope with the sort of men the nation needed to expand its productivity in all directions.

Throughout the debate, however, the universities' champions were heard. Making his maiden speech, Lord Bullock emphasised their unique contributions as centres of teaching and research and keepers of the major part of society's "working capital of knowledge". Only they could educate young people within the context of research and scholarship.

Lord Bullock said: "Nobody supposes that universities can have all they want or need; they have to put up with less like everyone else. But I believe it is important that within the limited sum available, account should be taken of the universities' function as centres of knowledge and research, as well as teaching institutions, and that this function should be recognized as indispensable."

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they are doing, and are playing a bigger part than anybody knows in helping to turn people's minds towards the real problems, and if you are going to get the future right, then it surely must be right in the slightly longer term that they have to go into services and out of production."

At the debate for the Government, Lord Crowther-Hunt, formerly Minister of State overseeing higher education, offered little hope of a bright financial future for the universities, but reiterated the Government's intention to plan for longer term financial stability.

Admitting that morale in the universities was at a low level, he

rejected outright any suggestion that the Government was anti-universities.

Salaries, Lord Crowther-Hunt said, were not the problem. The Government was committed to the question of salaries in the universities, but it was a different pay situation facing the country.

"When that will be I cannot say. It will depend on the form and scope of pay policy in the next round. I can certainly give no assurance of any kind that university teachers will be given exceptional treatment in October 1978, when their salaries will next be reviewed."

Taking up other points from the debate, Lord Crowther-Hunt defended the independence of the UGC. He said that although officers of the Department of Education and Science attended its meetings, they could be excluded from considering any item of business as the UGC decided. For example, they could not consider proposals for the 1972-77 quinquennial proposals for the

proportion of young workers in Britain given day-release education in Sweden or Germany, he said. "I am German and Swedish industry is much more efficient than ours, but I cannot help feeling that the better the higher a person has in industry, the higher his rate of productivity is likely to be."

This is why the Government, recognizing the importance of the question, have given priority to future plans to the 16 to 19-year-olds.

Lord Morris of Gresham, former Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, urged that the rights of students to consultation and participation in university affairs be recognized. He then talked about students' destinations.

"Many people have gone into services instead of into manufacturing. Speaking with long experience of teaching in universities, I would say that the effect of universities is to make people keener on services than on manufacturing."

"Of course there is enormous influence through the sex and, with the greater influence of design with people and further their influence is that way. That situation will go further yet."

"In any case it is doubtful whether you are going to increase manufacturing by further over-manning. It is doubtful if you could back whether you will know what to do with the vast majority of people."

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Didacta searches for an identity

Didacta, the major European educational materials fair, took place in Basle at the end of March and controversy about its future and future use of educational technology.

It now seems likely that the exhibition will be held every two years instead of annually and staged alternately inside and outside Germany. Discussions are already under way about the possibility of its being held at the University of Birmingham in 1982.

Didacta is an exhibition which has been struggling to find an identity. Started by the Deutsche Lehrmittelverband, the German equivalent of the British Educational Equipment Association, it has been organized by Eurodidac, the European Association of Manufacturers and Distributors of Educational Materials.

Members of Eurodidac, understandably wanted to make the exhibition as international as possible. To this end they have for some years been pressing for a biennial to be held outside Germany.

A compromise agreement was reached with the DLV in 1970, it was agreed that Didacta 82 would be an annual event (presently it was biennial) and should be held alternately inside and outside Germany.

So in 1974 on its first excursion out of a German-speaking country Didacta was held in Brussels; in 1976 it was held in Nuremberg; this year in Basle. It is now generally agreed that the experience has been unsuccessful.

In the present economic climate manufacturers and publishers do not want to exhibit every year. It is a whole chosen by the exhibitors held outside Germany, and have consequently become less international Didacta. Disputes between Eurodidac and the DLV on this issue will take place in the next few months.

The most likely candidate for 1978 exhibition is Brussels, it that Didacta will return to Germany, but in 1982 it will be out again.

Worries about Didacta's low must to some extent have been vindicated by this year's event. In 1976 the exhibition was held in a hall which was barely big enough to hold the exhibits. This year the Basle exhibition was held in a hall which was barely big enough to hold the exhibits.

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A recurring theme was that the sophisticated equipment in which many exhibitors had invested was not achieving the expected results. In spite of it "teachers were still finding eight-year-olds who could read or write", as one speaker put it.

This scepticism, together with the effects of the economic climate, was, however, reflected in the exhibition in a surprising and not surprising way. As a member of the Eurodidac Presidium said, it was the less proven equipment which this year was absent from the list of computer manufacturers, for example, was much shorter than in previous years.

Moreover, it was notable that there were very few really radical innovations in the equipment. What was new were refinements, many of which were designed to save money. Another probably cost-effective trend at Didacta was the obvious increase in audio-visual materials, the slides, transparencies, filmstrips and video-cassettes are at last catching up with the proliferation of equipment.

This is partly due to increased international cooperation. Companies are realizing that visual information is easily exchanged and are looking for already produced materials to slot into multi-media packages or to add to slide packs and filmstrips. The result appears to be an improvement in quality as well as quantity.

The latest annual report of the Central Register and Clearing House and the Graduate Teacher Training Registry shows that the number of applications for teacher training in the future will be low.

Carolyn O'Grady

Sue Reid visits University College, Buckingham in its first academic year

Professor Beloff's dream shapes up to reality

When Professor Max Beloff, principal of the University College, Buckingham, delivered the Edmund Rich memorial lecture to the Royal Society of Arts in 1974 it seemed to the outside world that this determined academic was about to achieve something of a coup.

His protracted negotiations with the Council for National Academic Awards were nearing completion and it looked likely that the council would give its approval to Professor Beloff's unique scheme for a two-year degree course at Buckingham, Britain's first privately financed "independent university".

In fact, so certain seemed Professor Beloff to CNAA validation that he was able to reflect during his lecture that "it would have been legal to offer our own degrees and rely on their being accepted as the reputation of the institution and its teachers made itself felt. But that was to put all the onus of the acceptance of the degrees upon the individual students. It was clear that this would have been wrong and in itself impractical, since few students would take the risk."

Today, of course, the University College, Buckingham, is offering its own "degrees", called licences, and more than 70 students are taking the risk Professor Beloff warned against in the memorial lecture.

It was four months after the 1974 lecture that the CNAA refused to validate the degree course structure put forward so patiently by Professor Beloff. The council declared that the proposed two-year, 80-week course was too short and claimed the college could not meet the financial and staffing conditions specified by the council.

It was a serious blow to Professor Beloff who knew his plight would attract no sympathy from the Privy Council which had already made it plain that no royal charter could be granted to a non-state institution until it had proved its financial viability and academic standing by successful existence over a period of years.

The other course of action, to offer London University external degrees, was onerous to Professor Beloff. His hopes for Buckingham hinged then, and still do, on freedom to innovate in respect of curriculum and examinations, away from the law professions now demanding graduates only.

By then the college, still 18 months away from actually opening, had attracted £1.5m from private sources and was winning a preponderantly wide following from the industrial world. The largest donation had come from an anonymous benefactor but financial support had also been given by Shell, Buss Chalmers and Boehringer.

Soon after the CNAA decision a letter was to appear in *The Times* declaring dismay at the council's education which, over many years when expansion was the call, have worked so hard to recruit and train the nation's teachers.

As Table 1 shows the 1975 entry to three or four-year courses in colleges or polytechnics fell by 8.3 per cent compared with 1974, and was 24 per cent below the peak of 1971. The percentage of male entrants continued to fall.

The percentage of entrants with a pass in O-level mathematics showed no improvement; one of Lord Alexander's major criticisms, suggesting that the past was that teaching primary teachers, who would necessarily become involved with instilling the basis of numeracy, should themselves have achieved the modest level of competence indicated by an O-level pass.

There is evidence from the figures that many people, especially girls, are working on A-level courses without bothering much with O-level mathematics. This suggests that some schools are offering to their pupils either bad advice or bad mathematics teaching.

An alternative explanation for the figures is that many enter teaching because they have failed to obtain the mathematics qualification needed for entry to many other worthwhile professions.

Table 2 suggests that Houghton has had some small effect, across the flow of entrants into postgraduate "teacher" training courses. But, as the chairman of the CRACH council of management, Edwin Peirson, writes in his foreword to the report: "The number applying for courses in mathematics and the physical sciences are still well below those needed to sustain the teaching of these important subjects in the school curriculum and urgent action is needed to stimulate recruitment in these areas."

It will be seen that an 11 per cent increase in the number of graduates man-entrants for mathematics/science was partly offset by a 2 per cent decrease in the number of women.

Reading this report, and recalling Table 1. Entries to three/four year courses in Colleges of Education/Polytechnic Education Departments/Faculties. (This table does not include entrants to "shortened" courses.) The 1975 figures include entries to two-year DipHE courses.

(a) Total entry
Number of men
Percentage of men
(b) Percentage with one or more passes at A level
Men
Women
(c) Percentage with an O-level pass in mathematics/science
Men
Women

Table 2. Entrants to postgraduate courses of initial training in education. 1973 1974 1975

(a) Departments of Education
Total entry
Men
Women
(b) Colleges of Education and Polytechnic Departments/Faculties
Total entry
Men
Women, maths/science

and expressing support for the Buckingham project. It was signed by representatives of British American Tobacco, Black and Decker, Shell, Turner and Newall, Delta Metal and Electric and Musical Industries.

The seven academic posts had been announced and the foundation stone of the college laid at Buckingham, but even at that stage the whole project could have been shelved. The economic crisis facing Britain, apart from the CNAA rejection, would have been reason enough.

But there was no going back as far as Professor Beloff was concerned and this timely support from the industrial giants, while unlikely to reverse the decision of the CNAA, underlined his hopes that Britain would be welcomed in some quarters at least and provide the opportunity of an alternative higher education albeit for those who could afford the £1,500 a year to pay for it.

Now those hopes have in part been realized. The steadfast determination of Professor Beloff, who gave up All Souls and Oxford's Gladstone chair of government to public administrative action to take part in the Buckingham experiment, led to the opening of the college two months ago with a reasonable student intake in numerical, if not academic, terms.

While outwardly supporting the Buckingham "licence", introduced through force of circumstances but already accepted by the Bar Council and the Law Society as equivalent to a normal degree, Professor Beloff has insisted on drafting a royal charter from the Privy Council within the next seven years when student numbers could conceivably have reached 500.

Five years ago there were hopes of establishing six faculties but today there is a school of law, with 45 students, and two other schools, one of economics and the other of law, economics and politics, which together cater for the remaining 25 Buckingham entrants.

It was inevitable that the law school would prove the most popular with other, more conventional law faculties in the higher education sector turning all but a cream away from the law professions now demanding graduates only.

Ironically, the Buckingham students may have found a quick route to success. Armed with their new licences, they have moved to Birmingham Polytechnic, to the head of the law school recruited from Exeter University where he was reader in English law for 28 years.

All soon closed to take a number on the experiment and their future careers.

For the students too it is a gamble. But they are the buyers of an expensive education and have already voiced dissatisfaction at the minor teaching troubles the college has faced in the last two months.

Languages, mathematics and natural sciences are compulsory subjects for all students, a decision made by Professor Beloff, who is determined not to see Buckingham devolve into simply a law school. But while languages and mathematics do not ultimately count towards Buckingham's final licence the natural science course must be passed to gain the licence, much to the disgust of many students.

A deputation has already argued this out with Professor Beloff but to little avail. Many are worried that their chances of gaining the licence may be hampered by having to spend a proportion of their two years studying science, a strange hodgepodge for law, politics and economics.

But student confrontation is as yet unknown at the University College, although a union, outspokenly

are adamant that only three students, apart from the high proportion of mature entrants, are without the normal A level or equivalent, entry requirements. But many have been admitted with low grade A levels, after rejection elsewhere, and a handful under 25 only possess one A level pass.

For the mature students, of which the majority are from Buckingham, notably Nigeria, qualifications have been deemed unimportant but intensive English lessons are already under way.

Professor Beloff's academic team seems however to be backing Buckingham with the same enthusiasm as their principal. They range from a 30-year-old lecturer in modern languages, who doubles as assistant dean of admissions and has moved to the college from Birmingham Polytechnic, to the head of the law school recruited from Exeter University where he was reader in English law for 28 years.

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Hop in, old man - we students must stick together.

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critical of the college has been formed but with no link to the National Union of Students. The students, fresh in many cases from Britain's public schools and perhaps naive when it comes to union negotiating tactics, tend to push Professor Beloff only into the role of headmaster.

More than one-third of the 70 students have been awarded scholarships by the college, some admittedly very small, to ease the financial burden. A loan system has also been devised and taken up by 10 mature students. As yet Professor Beloff is reluctant to extend the scheme to school leavers and the younger students who may have years of study ahead of them when they leave Buckingham.

In spite of this financial help the college has still largely attracted the wealthy who can afford the £5,000 needed to complete the course. One, an Arabian sheik, travels to the college by Rolls-Royce each day from Oxford where he is a permanent resident of the Randolph Hotel.

Local education authorities have so far been totally unbothered and as yet no Buckingham student has received a maintenance grant. However, Redbridge and Devonshire councils have both said they will pay a grant and a proportion of students fees in the future. The college now hopes for some response from other authorities and is quick to point out the financial advantage of a two-year course.

If there is a response from the local authorities then Professor Beloff's dream of 500 students within seven years could come true. Applications are already high for next year when a fourth school in history, politics and English literature is planned. But finance, from both the students and the college's point of view, remains the main stumbling block.

If scholarships could be provided on a wider basis by the college coupled with local authority sponsorship then few students would have to be turned away because they fail to jump the financial hurdle. It would lead to potential students considering Buckingham alongside conventional universities and polytechnics and allow the college to select purely on academic merit.

But Professor Beloff's original stalwarts in the industrial world are still standing by in the wings and when a campaign to attract more private finance gets under way in the next few weeks they are likely to step in. Shell has already come forward, unasked, with another £7,500 on top of its original substantial donation, a gesture that suggests Buckingham's ultimate saviour will be big business.

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City of frozen lakes and nubile students

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and understanding the needs of the stakeholders involved.

The author is professor of religious studies at Lancaster University.

BOOKS

Mourning for the old ways

The Great Universe of Kota: Stress, Change and Mental Disorder in an Indian Village
by G. M. Carstairs and R. L. Kapur
The Hogarth Press, £5.50
ISBN 0 7012 0412 5

The Great Universe of Kota describes a comparative study of the incidence of mental disorder among three castes in a village of South India. It takes its title from the ironic phrase the villagers apply to their community: Kota is at once a rural backwater of 9,000 farmers and fisherfolk and a microcosm of Indian society. So the study, too, is both an attempt to assess the mental health needs of one small village, and a way of exploring the most universal, perplexing and elusive questions about the nature and causes of mental illness.

We no longer believe that mental illness is the curse of modern civilization—a punishment for the hubris of disturbing some simple, more natural social order. Where, over we look at populations and cultures we find states of mind which are recognized as disordered. Thus mental illness appears to be a universal human affliction, and if we could compare its incidence in different groupings of people, we ought to understand more about its causes. If some such illnesses are biologically determined, they should be largely independent of cultural influences. If they are provoked by stress, they should vary with the tensions to which people are subjected. But the design of a comparative framework within which to explore these issues is extraordinarily difficult.

First, the behaviour which is perceived as being mentally ill is culturally determined, even if its causes are not. Walking naked down the road, seeing violence, being possessed by an alien personality are only symptoms of a disordered mind in the context of assumptions about the nature of reality with which they cannot be reconciled, and these assumptions vary greatly within and between societies and situations. Second, and because of this, any classification of mental illness tends to break down when applied to different populations. What, then, is the behaviour whose incidence is to be compared?

The Kota study was designed to resolve the first of these methodological puzzles by confining its comparison to three castes within a single village. All were Hindu, integrated in the life of the community, and so presumably shared much the same assumptions about their world. But they varied in status, in occupation and, especially,

in family structure. The Brahmins hand down property from one generation to the next through the male line, and men live with their wives, either in their father's house, or more often, newly, independently. The Bani and Mogers traditionally followed a matrilineal pattern of inheritance, where wives remained in their parents' houses and brothers supported their sisters' children. Matrilineal inheritance is now illegal, but the pattern of residence is slow to change, creating ambiguity and tension: wives may be welcome neither in their husbands' or their brothers' family homes. So, in comparing these two castes with the Brahmins, the study hopes to isolate the influence of stress change upon the incidence of mental illness.

But this still left the second issue unresolved—how was illness to be defined? The investigators were determined not to impose categories of disease and symptom classifications derived from another culture. So they tried two kinds of description—one derived from symptoms, the other from need. The symptoms were chosen through a series of pilot investigations, to establish those which could be consistently recognized both by informants and investigators—typically sleeplessness, tiredness, somatic discomfort, anxiety, depression, delusions—without prejudging their diagnostic implications. Needs were assessed by the frequency with which people had sought help, their sense of their ability to cope with life, and the impoverishment of their social functioning. The last of these was abandoned. Most people, even if they seemed otherwise unwell, could meet minimal requirements of social functioning, and any more exacting definition involved a qualitative judgment which the investigators felt they could not support. The first, of course, only revealed those needs which people felt could be applied to their own situation, or traditional expert in such matters. All the indicators were designed so that a relatively uneducated, but trained, team could, under supervision, record them consistently, without great cost or trying the patience of the villagers.

As a whole, the method worked well, on its own terms. The results showed significant differences between groups in the population, as measured by both symptom and need, which could very plausibly be explained by differences in their social circumstances. Above all, the women of the traditionally matrilineal castes were more likely to show symptoms of distress, felt less



Shiva Nataraja, the goddess who creates and destroys. The twelfth century bronze statue is illustrated in *A Concise History of India*, Art, to be published by Thames and Hudson on Monday, at £4.95 and £2.50.

able to cope, and on all measures combined seemed more in need of help than any other groups. And among them, the women who had changed over to living with their husbands rather than their brothers were most at risk: over half of them had symptoms. The disruption of the matrilineal pattern did not seem to disturb men, but for the wives who had to survive the tensions of a household where they were only ambivalently accepted, the stress was evident.

Yet does this finding really tell us much about the need for psychiatric services? The women of these matrilineal castes were the victims of a social change imposed on them by the state which undermined their accustomed pattern of social relationships; they were bereaved of a structure of reliable expectations within which to organize their lives. What to expect now was still uncertain: some wives still lived with their own families, some with their husbands, some in the couples' separate homes; their rights compared ambiguously with those of their husbands' sisters.

Thus the meaning of marriage, of family duty, was cast in doubt, and this profound disruption of

social meaning, of one's place in life, can be seen as a bereavement, analogous to the loss of a crucial relationship by death. The normal reaction to bereavement is grief, and its characteristic symptoms are the same as many of the indicators chosen for the Kota study—insomnia, restlessness, somatic distress, anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, guilt and hostility, social withdrawal. Any bereaved person in Kota would surely have been recorded as in need of treatment.

Yet we do not usually think of 'bereaved' as mentally ill, nor in need of psychiatric care.

If we describe these women of Kota as grieving for loss, rather than displaying the symptoms of mental disorder, then the context in which their distress might be relieved is not at all obviously psychiatric. The collective bereavements, brought about by disruptive social changes can often become more manageable through forms of organization which articulate the ambivalence of transition from a past that must be given up, and a future whose meaning has not yet been established. They do not resolve the tensions, but help to project them into some form of association, where the conflicts can be articulated, and mem-

bership provides a supportive context. Hence the need for the Kota women might be better through new kinds of social organization, through the intervention of someone whose social position enabled them to articulate the conflicting sense of loss, and to provide a political rather than a therapeutic question of rights and principles which might be sought in social relationships, where the search for meaning can be made self-meaningful.

But if we can translate a symptom of mental illness into all kinds of mental distress, we can understand their causes? I can establish that some are provoked by brain damage, or others by chemical damage, or still fundamentally 'mental', if, like some neurotic patients, seem to stem from embryonic filaments which people fear to acknowledge. Is their unwillingness to well-described in terms of a cure, rather than the understanding oneself? If we represent a residual of unexplained behaviour, that more we come to understand causes, the more it can be left in other terms, and the more that it falls within the compass of any one profession is less likely.

The outstanding virtue of this study is the clarity with which it confronts the methodological problems of comparative research, showing what the research achieves, it raises far-reaching fundamental questions. In a sense, I think, is its unique contribution for which the appropriate response is some kind of personal health care, such as modern. In its concluding need, for instance, it calls for a new kind of research, one which is not so much a study of the highest need among the women from matrilineal castes, as a confirmation of this need, of need the fact that all social and psychiatric are involved.

But, as it happens, epilepsy psychosis are common among the Brahmins, and especially, among women. This study suggests that very different causes can be combined in ways which obscure the causes which lie beneath the disorder. And I think, in this case, the study has not yet been established. They do not resolve the tensions, but help to project them into some form of association, where the conflicts can be articulated, and mem-

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Peter M.

Burning the midnight candle

China's Examination Hell: The Civil Service Examinations of Imperial China
by Ichibang Mitsuaki
translated by Conrad Schirokauer
Weatherhill, £6.00
ISBN 0 8348 0104 3

I imagine that by now many doctoral theses have been written on the psychopathology of examination stress. Most of us have experienced the symptoms which are still liable to recur in dreams—excessive concentration on previous moral shortcomings, a weakening of the functioning of the knee-joints, and a sudden access of acute amnesia, mitigated only by frenzied scratching at one or more pathetic scraps of irrelevant information.

Professor Mitsuaki's work on the public examinations, which lasted in China until 1904 can only be recommended to those with strong nerves. As the system developed, access to China's governing elite was largely confined to a strictly limited number of academic elite who succeeded in completing the district, provincial and metropolitan examinations, a process which might and often did, take the better part of a lifetime.

The curriculum was inflexible,

specialized, being confined to the memorization of the Confucian classics and the composition of poems and essays. What may be said about the Chinese mind, is emphatically not a tiny one. It was necessary to start early, because there was a lot to learn. The textual material of the classics which had to be memorized is estimated by Professor Mitsuaki to have required six years of memorizing at the rate of 200 Chinese characters a day. Three years of this would be enough to master the entire corpus of the classics. It shows that the teacher is a very important figure in the system.

Formally speaking, there were no class distinctions barring the way to success. In fact, however, the system, although open to all, was a system of privilege. If your father or grandfather had been a scholar, you were more likely to succeed. If your father or grandfather had been a scholar, you were more likely to succeed.

Mr. Otsuoka told Queen Victoria that in his view the test of real test of character, in that the previous history of moral turpitude of the candidate, one of whom as he left the compound scribbled on the wall the following poignant poem:

horse, the physique of a donkey, the insensitivity of a wood louse and the endurance of a camel.

The examination conditions at the provincial level were certainly rather rugged. After several candidates who had been selected for the examination had been selected for the examination, they were allowed a candle, and two nights in succession. At night they were allowed a candle, and two nights in succession. At night they were allowed a candle, and two nights in succession.

Under these conditions, the memorization of large sections of the Analects or the Book of Rites and the composition of them, with elegant precision (gloriously or illegibly calligraphed) was a formidable task.

Some candidates, however, were so good that they were allowed to skip the first part of the examination. This was a privilege, and it was a privilege. This was a privilege, and it was a privilege. This was a privilege, and it was a privilege.

smoothly, as if unseen agents were at work.

For the first time, we were widely believed to be influenced in their supreme, important judgments by supernatural agencies. Sometimes, however, more mundane influences—such as bribery, personal knowledge of the candidates or excessive local patriotism—clouded the objectivity of their judgment. To guard against this, elaborate precautions were devised.

As early as the tenth century the candidates' names were concealed from the examiners, and by the eleventh thousands of clerks were employed copying the candidates' answers. However, the administration was at all times, as it tended to be in the late Ch'ing (1644-1911), scandalous, and the system was a far from perfect one.

There could be collusion, where by for instance a candidate would agree beforehand with an examiner that a certain character would appear in a certain place on a certain line. The examiner then would mark accordingly. However, as I did not know the candidate's seal number, as late as 1858 there was a terrible row and the Chief Examiner was sentenced to death. The system was a far from perfect one.

Once you were through a metropolitan exam, failure was virtually ruled out and amid ritual and banqueting and an increasing demand for a programme of low-keyed competition developed for the places among the Ch'ing-shih. The Emperor himself, in times of the Ch'ing-shih, would preside over the questions, prefacing with these encouraging words: 'You are all talented men who are qualified in repeated examinations and now, facing the place to which you have been selected, I am the Emperor. Night and day I will be thinking of you. I will be thinking of you. I will be thinking of you.'

For the successful, the glory prizes. The others were left to their own devices. However, as I did not know the candidate's seal number, as late as 1858 there was a terrible row and the Chief Examiner was sentenced to death. The system was a far from perfect one.

For the successful, the glory prizes. The others were left to their own devices. However, as I did not know the candidate's seal number, as late as 1858 there was a terrible row and the Chief Examiner was sentenced to death. The system was a far from perfect one.

T. E. B. Howard

Relative theory

General Theory of Relativity
by P. A. M. Dirac
Wiley, £5.80
ISBN 0 471 21575 9

It goes without saying that a book by a man of the stature of Paul Dirac is worth reading. His pioneering book on quantum mechanics has been required reading of physics students for forty years. In this new book, Dirac's masterly exposition is turned to general relativity, and it is probably the most economical text on the subject I have ever read. Dirac's ability to cut right through to the heart of a subject is fully exploited in a book which contains no less than 35 chapters in 69 pages. This is quick reading by any standard, and naturally only a skeleton of mathematical theory can be encompassed in such a short space. Nevertheless, the essentials of Riemannian geometry are all there, dropping effortlessly into place, and by page 30 the reader is already on to Schwarzschild's solution and black

holes. Much of the remainder of the book is devoted to action principles for electromagnetic, gravitational and matter fields. It is an ideal book for students who want to learn an outline of general relativity quickly, or who need an introductory discussion to accompany a more sophisticated and extensive treatment. The approach adopted is very much a traditional one. Modern differential geometry does not appear, and students who are learning relativity on the style of Misner, Thorne and Wheeler will find a strong contrast. Moreover, the reader must not expect any but the briefest physical discussion of what relativity is all about. No motivation for the introduction of Einstein's equations is given, for example. This is not a criticism, what is surely a very useful teaching text. The reader should treat this book as a beautifully concise, nomenclature summary of the essential mathematical framework of general relativity.

Paul Davis

Under water

Oceanography and Marine Biology, volume 13
edited by Harold Barnes
Allen & Unwin, £21.50
ISBN 0 04 551024 5

This series has now become an established source of reference. In any journal attempting so wide a coverage, not all the articles can be of immediate interest to the reader, as so much depends on the individual contributors, and whether their style encourages one to browse through their article and emerge enlightened.

The present volume is very much the mixture as before, containing seven reviews of varying length and interest. The oceanographic study of 'The Carlsberg Basin' by Richards is an excellent example of how to combine detailed discussion of the hydrography and chemistry of this feature with a wide awareness that made reading it rewarding. Not so the long review, 'Fungal in Oceans and Estuaries' by Hughes, which provides very little to sustain the interest of any but the most ardent mycologist. Li-Cheng gives a general survey of 'Marine Plankton', providing a concise and easily assimilated survey of this group and incorporating data from Russian workers which is not generally available in translation.

In reviewing the 'Relationships between Marine Plants and Sea Urchins' J. M. Lawrence assesses the ecological significance of echinoids as grazing organisms, providing tables of food, absorption and growth efficiencies when fed on a wide variety of algae. Two articles deal with fish, Avril Woodhead discusses the 'Feeding Physiology of Fish Migration' considering the role of the internal, thyroid and gonadal hormones in influencing fish migrations, while A. M. Bullock and R. Roberts provide a baseline study of the histology of the skin in 'The Dermatology of Fish'. There is a short paper on the 'Economics of Aquaculture' by C. J. Shepherd. Despite its length, the book has fewer articles than usual, suggesting that very little constraint has been imposed on some of the contributors. In the present financial climate most scientific journals have taken very hard looks at what they offer by way of value for money, and for this price I would expect more articles of a more reasonable length.

D. A. Dorsett

Space waves

The Wave Equation on a Curved Space-time
by F. G. Friedlander
Cambridge University Press, £15.00
ISBN 0 521 20567 0

Improperly Posed Boundary Value Problems
edited by A. Carasso and A. P. Stone
Pitman, £5.60
ISBN 0 273 001051

F. G. Friedlander's book is the second volume to be published in the new series of Cambridge monographs on mathematical physics. It deals mainly with the local theory (created by Hadamard and Riesz) of a scalar wave equation on a four-dimensional Lorentzian manifold. The modern formalism of differential geometry and the theory of distributions are used and useful surveys of these two topics are provided. An excellent discussion is given of the hyperbolicity of the wave equation, and the characteristics of the wave equation and the geometrical approach illuminates the link between geometrical optics and the wave equation.

The significance of causal conditions on the space-time is made explicit in the author's discussion of the fundamental solutions of the wave equation, and the geometrical approach is once again to the fore in his discussion of the Cauchy problem, the characteristic initial value problem and Huygen's principle. He also discusses tensor wave equations, the wave equation in n -dimensions and concludes the book by dealing with the method of descent.

Friedlander has placed the emphasis on rigorous mathematics rather than physics in this elegant work and it will be of interest to both mathematicians and theoretical physicists concerned with the local positive effects of gravitation, represented by the curvature, on the behaviour of waves.

Improperly Posed Boundary Value Problems is a collection of reports given by participants at a conference held at the University of New Mexico in 1974. The 12 essays, papers and expository surveys in this volume deal mainly with various types of ill-posed problems in partial differential equations and are directed at specialists in this field.

D. C. Robinson

Child psychology

The series, *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, is 30 years old, and volume 30, edited by Anna Freud, has just been published by Hogarth Press at £11.00. As in 1945 the concerns remain the same: in therapy the range extends from child analysis to child guidance and group work; in theory, from the

basic problem of genetic psychology to those concerned with the interaction of culture and the upbringing of the child. Volume 30 is arranged in sections covering problems of development, clinical and theoretical contributions and applications of psychoanalysis.

P. J. Higgins

Self control

The Life of Mammals: Their Anatomy and Physiology
edited by J. Z. Young, with the assistance of J. M. Hobbs, second edition
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £8.75
ISBN 0 19 857156 9

Professor Young's book gives a comprehensive account of the life of mammals, in which the main theme is the consideration of the mammalian body as a self-control machine. The many and varied regulatory systems control and coordinate the activities of the various parts of the machine, and maintain an internal stability in the face of an external environment where conditions fluctuate.

The main chapter headings correspond to the separate parts and organ systems of the body and deal with their functioning and development. From a concise and lucid but always very readable text illustrated with more than 400 excellent figures, the reader is presented with a wealth of up-to-date information from many fields of research. Young emphasises the relationship between structure and function—in terms of cell ultrastructure, tissue architecture and topographical anatomy. At the end of almost every chapter is a concluding section of the very latest regulatory mechanisms in the organ or system under discussion are related to control systems in other parts of the body and to homeostasis in the body as a whole. The book also contains general chapters on communication, control and the continuation of life, the protection and defence of the body, and internal secretions and homeostasis, as well as a brief survey of mammalian evolution.

Since the first edition was published, rapid progress has been made in many fields; the functions of some organs, such as the pineal gland, which was almost a total mystery in 1958, is now reasonably well understood. Young argues that the advance of knowledge of the nervous system has been sufficiently significant to justify a revision of 20 of the 53 chapters to the book, and some organs, such as the endocrine system, which were not covered in the first edition, are now included. The book is a volume which many students find difficult, especially as it forms part of a more general treatment of mechanisms of control and coordination.

The Life of Mammals is attractive, readable, and unlike many a second edition, has been extensively revised, with many new figures; less than half the original text remains the same. It includes a subject index, an author index and an extensive bibliography. One aim of the book is to bridge the gaps between the basic and medical aspects of biology.

Michael Balls

Infinity

Lie Algebras Generated by Finite Dimensional Ideals
by I. Stewart
Pitman, £5.60
ISBN 273 00142 6

This is the second of a new series of research notes in mathematics, designed for rapid publication of monographs on current work in pure and applied mathematics. It is a well written account of a contribution to the theory of infinite dimensional Lie algebras largely due to the author himself. The aim is to provide, for suitable classes of Lie algebras, analogues of the classical finite-dimensional structure theorems, one of the themes being the existence and conjugacy of Cartan sub-algebras and Boyl sub-algebras. The methods are an amalgam of standard Lie algebra techniques and a translated version of the theory of formations of solvable groups, exploiting the well-known analogy between groups and Lie algebras.

P. J. Higgins

People problem

Primary Productivity of the Biosphere
edited by Helmut Lieth & Robert H. Whitaker
Springer-Verlag Berlin, distributed by Chapman & Hall, £14.50
ISBN 0 387 07083 4

The main purpose of this book is to summarize the results of the International Biological Programme and other research on primary production of the biosphere, defined here as the global film of organisms rather than the surface environments in which they live (the 'ecosphere'). The hope is that net primary production will one day be seen as a figure of real significance to man and one of its uses would be to determine the maximum human population that could be fed. In the preface the editors state that 'unregulated increase of the human population beyond the world's sustainable carrying capacity must be considered a moral crime', though the final chapters recognize that other considerations may operate well beyond the world's sustainable carrying capacity.

The book gives considerable attention to the prediction of productivity patterns from environmental data and good descriptions of the development of productivity maps based on the Miami, Montreal and Thornthwaite Memorial models. The search for indirect ways of assessing primary productivity reflects the fact that direct measurement is both expensive and time-consuming.

The final part contains a useful summary of world productivity estimates but perhaps overstates the importance to man of such knowledge. Even so, one must agree with the conclusion that 'Knowledge of primary production should contribute to wise and conserving management of the earth's living mantle'.

C. R. W. Spedding

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Sinclair Goodlad

This book considers the nature of authority in the university and the areas of conflict, and particularly the fundamental conflict about educational goals which characterises any discussion of the purpose of higher education. The author argues that the institutional authority of the university depends upon its maintaining a tension between these goals while at the same time securing consensus about the value of uncertainty. He concludes that, in so far as consensus implies certainty, consensus may be more dangerous to universities than conflict.

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On Trotskyism

Problems of Theory and History

KOSTAS MAVRAKIS

Translated by John McGreal

Trotsky has often been depicted as a romantic figure by his biographers. Kostas Mavrakis does not see him in this light, and in this controversial work he submits Trotsky's thoughts and work to a fair but critical examination. Originally published in France in 1972, this book caused so much debate that a revised and enlarged edition was brought out in 1973. This is a translation of the latter. paperback £4.95

European Witch Trials

Their Foundations in Popular and Learned Culture 1300-1500

RICHARD KIECKHEFER

In popular tradition witches were either practitioners of magic or people who were objectionable in some way, but for early European courts witches were heretics and worshippers of the Devil. Richard Kieckhefer concentrates on the period when ideas about witchcraft were being formed and witch-hunting was gathering momentum. He goes beyond the traditional approaches and has developed his own methodology for distinguishing popular from learned concepts about witchcraft. He shows how and why learned tradition became superimposed on popular notions and gives a description of the social context of witch accusation and witch trials. £5.25

Samuel Beckett

JOHN PILLING

John Pilling has used previously unpublished material by and on Beckett to write this examination of his work and the aesthetic, philosophical, literary and historical milieu within which Beckett writes. The book shows how unique, and yet how traditional Beckett's aims are, and includes John Pilling's translation of the recent prose by Beckett, *Fairhead*, previously unpublished in English in this country. £5.75

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BOOKS

Passengers from India

Separate and Unequal: India and the Indians in the British Commonwealth 1920-1950
by Hugh Tinker
C. Hurst, £9.00
ISBN 0 903983 31 1

Professor Tinker has written a sequel to *A New System of Slavery*, which described the emigration of Indians, mostly under indenture, during the period 1830-1920. Both volumes are infused with the same moral indignation at the treatment Indians received. The root cause of their abuse is here described as British imperialism whose "driving force was the motive of exploitation". Its agents were much the same before and after 1920: in Britain successive generations of Colonial Secretaries and permanent officials who defended attitudes by Indian nationalists, humanitarians and even the India Office to intervene on behalf of the emigrants; in the colonies, the plantation owners who wanted cheap, docile labour, officials who connived at abuses, white settlers who resented Indian competition and indigenous nationalists who resented their presence. Few indeed escape censure and power almost invariably corrupts: Crech Jones, for example, is on the side of the angels in the 1930s and early 1940s, but falls from grace once he becomes Colonial Secretary.

Despite this continuity of approach, there are major differences between the two books. The first had a coherent and finite theme—the origins, growth and eventual abolition of indentured emigration—but it is difficult to see any such logical pattern in its successor. The underlying argument is clear enough. Once Indians had been duped into emigrating, they had a moral claim to full equality of status and opportunity

in the countries where they had settled. This they never received. In South Africa, which is given the greatest attention, they were gradually relegated to second-class status, somewhere above the Africans but well below the whites. The same was true in Kenya until its independence. In Ceylon the British connived at the determination of Sinhalese politicians to avoid giving the Tamil population full citizenship and in Burma independence left Indians as an alien and unprotected minority. In other British possessions independence and the final outcome lie beyond the time-scale of this book (to be dealt with in its successor), but in these also Indians typically failed to receive the support they looked for from the imperial authorities. The only gleam of hope in the whole story came in 1949 when the British Nationality Act provided equal status as citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies to all Indians in the remaining dependencies, and India was admitted to the Commonwealth as a republic; and over this nominal equality also the shadow of later British control of immigration lies long.

The weakness of this story lies not in the facts, which are for the most part undeniable, but in the way in which they are told and the assumptions which underlie the narrative. The book is weak both structurally and conceptually because in fact there is no unity of theme: there is really no common denominator between the experience of Indians in all these territories or in the forces which determined their fate. Tinker tries to patch it all together by insisting that, because he is describing events in territories which technically formed part of the British Empire and Commonwealth, responsibility for Indian misfortunes lay with Britain. This is unrealistic. It was never remotely

possible after 1910 to could have forced the equality with whites. In Kenya or Southern Rhodesia the Colonial Office never able to impose its on any important group. In Ceylon, Burma and Malaya power depended on collaboration from local elites, and there was the possibility of imposing a system of racial equality. Conversely in places such as Fiji British rule a moral obligation to the "weaker" indigenous population against what they the threat of Indian

Thus there were reasons for the grievances in every country and an overview of this book a single story our day result it lacks sharp related events throughout, and Commonwealth as a chronological framework described blow by blow. The material should be restructured, possibly by lines, and also greatly so that within its 400, author could have cut down to its intended end the 1970s. As it stands, historical tract, rather a balanced study. It contains useful evidence, and published before, and is valuable to students of British possessions. The study of the British "imperial role", to use the description, it must be many reservations.

D. K. F.

Père de la Victoire

The Tiger: The Life of Georges Clemenceau, 1841-1929
by Edgar Holt
Hamish Hamilton, £8.50
ISBN 241 89294 5

Biography is a difficult art because there are few subjects about which it is possible to have such endless disputes as assessments of character. People present different appearances in different roles. Clemenceau is a more difficult subject than most, for the biographer because he played so many roles in a long lifetime. Born during the July monarchy of 1841, he died in the year of the Wall Street crash. He was involved in the Paris Commune as mayor of Montmartre, an opposition member of the Chamber of Deputies in the 1880s and a leading campaigner for the revision of the Dreyfus case. But it was not until 1906 at the age of 65 that he assumed office for the first time as Minister of Interior; soon afterwards he became Prime Minister. Finally he became a legend in his own lifetime as Père de la Victoire for his premiership in the years 1917 to 1919. He was first and foremost a politician but the range of his other activities is impressive: he was a journalist, who founded four newspapers; a philosopher, biographer and travel writer; a voluminous of political writings; he wrote the theatre and opera; he was a composer of painting and a friend of Monet; he enjoyed the company of women even in his great old age.

There is much to be said about Clemenceau and a definitive biography will have to be on the scale of Montaigne and Burke's life of Cromwell. Given the paucity of Clemenceau papers available to scholars, such an enterprise would present difficulties but, as David Watson showed in his excellent published biography, there are many other rich sources about most aspects of Clemenceau's activities. There is, however, another desirable approach to the writing of

Clemenceau's biography. This is the approach of Monnet's compelling portrait of Clemenceau in the *Louvre*, which attempts to capture the essence of the man with bold brush strokes, ignoring minor details and the implications of some of his features. Edgar Holt's fluent biography is in this style. It is not a detailed scholarly account but an attempt at a well-rounded portrait of Clemenceau in his public and private roles. Inevitably Holt relies heavily on the scholars, journalists and politicians who have written about Clemenceau. His main achievement is to give a convincing impression of Clemenceau's intelligence and force of character, the qualities his contemporaries most admired. The handling of his private life is especially good. Holt has sifted the scraps and the evidence about Clemenceau's relationships with women and gives a perceptive and plausible account of them.

His unsuccessful marriage contrasts with the warmth and consideration which he showed in some of his other liaisons. There is a slight tendency to be over-sympathetic to Clemenceau in the account of the highly unedifying way in which he ended his marriage. This tendency, very common among biographers, can also be seen elsewhere. There is more to the charges made by his enemies of authoritarianism, brutality, opportunism and impulsiveness than Holt is prepared to admit. The tough edge of Clemenceau's tongue is, of course, very amusing, but his over-extended domineering man who overpowered enemies and collaborators alike. This is, however, a highly successful popular biography. It is a life of David. Given the paucity of Clemenceau papers available to scholars, such an enterprise would present difficulties but, as David Watson showed in his excellent published biography, there are many other rich sources about most aspects of Clemenceau's activities. There is, however, another desirable approach to the writing of

Malcolm Anderson

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**DEPARTMENT OF
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

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MANAGEMENT
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**STUDENTSHIPS AND S.S.R.C.
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ended by 30 April.

BAR:

